

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: BELGIAN MEDIA REACTION

1. DEBATES ON FUTURE AFRICAN POLICY DOMINATED BELGIAN
MEDIA MAY 26.

2. LA LIBRE BELGIQUE WRITES THAT "IT IS VERY CLEAR TO
EVERYBODY THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA IS NO LONGER POS-
SIBLE IF THE SECURITY OF WESTERN TECHNICIANS IS NOT EN-
SURED. IN OTHER WORDS, IF THE AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS
ARE NOT ABLE TO STOP SOVIET EXPANSIONISM. HOW TO PROCEED?
TO BE TRUTHFUL, ONLY FRANCE SO FAR HAS PROPOSED THE BE-
GINNING OF A SOLUTION BY NEGOTIATING WITH SOME OF ITS
FORMER COLONIES A PROJECT FOR AN INTER-AFRICAN FORCE WITH
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THE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT OF PARIS... DO THEY FEAR IN CERTAIN
WESTERN CAPITALS THAT FRANCE WOULD PLAY A TOO IMPORTANT
INTERNATIONAL ROLE? OR DO THEY CONSIDER NOT WITHOUT
REASONS THAT THE FRENCH INITIATIVE IS LARGELY INSUFFICIENT
BECAUSE IT DOES NOT INCLUDE ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES?
ANYHOW, IN BRUSSELS AMONG OTHER PLACES THEY ARE TRYING TO
ENLARGE THE FORMULA... IN WASHINGTON, ON THE OTHER HAND,

THERE IS INCREASING CONCERN AT SEEING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOVIET ENDEAVORS IN AFRICA. THE 'CARTER STYLE' HAS NOT PRESENTED ANY ADVANTAGES SINCE IT PREVENTS THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT FROM ACTING EFFICIENTLY THUS FAR... IN THE KOLWEZI AFFAIR, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HE HAS BEEN IN POWER, PRESIDENT CARTER HAS DECIDED ON A CERTAIN INTERVENTION BY OFFERING LOGISTIC SUPPORT TO THE OPERATIONS CONDUCTED BY FRANCE AND BELGIUM... IN THE U.S. THERE ARE CERTAIN INDICATIONS THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE RATHER INCLINED TO CONDUCT A DISCRETE COUNTER-OFFENSIVE BY PROVIDING NEW AID TO THE ANGOLAN REBEL MOVEMENTS WHICH STILL REMAIN RELATIVELY POWERFUL." IN CONCLUSION LA LIBRE SAYS THAT "THE CREATION OF A SECURITY SYSTEM IS WELL-DEFINED IN ITS PRINCIPLE: IT SHOULD BE AN AFRICAN FORCE BACKED UP BY A SUBSTANTIAL EUROPEAN LOGISTICAL SUPPORT."

3. LE RAPPEL WRITES THAT "IT IS NOT REASONABLE TO CONTINUE TO PLACE OURSELVES AT THE MERCY OF FURIES TOO EASILY PREDICTABLE AND TOO DIFFICULT TO CONTAIN WHICH WOULD PERIODICALLY FORCE US TO MILITARY INTERVENTIONS... AFRICA IS CHALLENGED BY INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST SUBVERSION. IT WOULD BE SUICIDAL FOR AFRICA AND A FOOLISH LACK OF FORESIGHT ON OUR PART -- WHICH WOULD HAVE FOR US TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES -- NOT TO MEET THAT CHALLENGE. THE SOMERSAULT SHOULD COME FROM AFRICA ITSELF. BUT IT WILL ONLY PROVE EFFECTIVE UNCLASSIFIED

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IF ALL THE EUROPEAN DEMOCRACIES ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES PROMPTLY TO IT. BELGIUM CAN AT MOST ONLY HAVE A ZAIRE POLICY. EUROPE HAS THE RESOURCES FOR ADOPTING AN AFRICAN POLICY. THIS IS WHAT WE MUST PROMOTE WITH OUR NEIGHBORS AND OUR ALLIES."

4. LA DERNIERE HEURE ALSO REFERS TO SOVIET PLANS FOR THE SUBVERSION OF AFRICA: "IF WE WANT TO PREVENT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THAT SCHEME AS WELL AS THE FINLANDIZATION OF EUROPE WE MUST ENVISAGE A WESTERN DEFENSE PLAN TO WHICH THE U.S. WOULD NECESSARILY ASSOCIATE. MOREOVER, FRANCE IS SO FAR THE ONLY COUNTRY WHICH HAS PROVIDED AN EFFECTIVE ANSWER TO THE SUBVERSION INITIATED BY MOSCOW. WE SHOULD THUS COOPERATE WITH IT..."

5. GAZET VAN ANTWERPEN WRITES: "IF AFRICA IS IN SUCH BAD SHAPE AS IT IS NOW, IT IS UNFORTUNATELY NOT ONLY THE FAULT OF THE AFRICANS THEMSELVES, BUT ALSO OF A WRONG APPROACH BY THE WEST, SOMETHING THE RUSSIANS AND THEIR ALLIES ARE ABUNDANTLY MAKING USE OF (AND THOSE ALLIES ARE NOT ONLY CUBANS AS EVIDENCED BY THE TRAVELS OF THE EAST GERMAN GENERAL HOFFMANN). A CHANGE CAN BE NOTICED NOW, HOWEVER,

MAINLY INSPIRED BY FEAR OF THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND
STRATEGIC POWER POSITION WHICH THE RUSSIANS ARE BUSY
ACQUIRING IN AFRICA..." KORENGOLD

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